

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A protective device for the drive unit (10) of a watercraft such as a sport boat, in particular a sport motor boat, a fishing vessel or the like, especially having a Z-drive, the protective device (14) being configured as a housing (16) with two dimensionally stable housing shell parts (18), which are mutually connected by means of a hinge (20) and, in the mutually connected closed state, enclose the drive unit (10) to be protected and bear one against the other with their closing edges (22), which correspond to one another in shape, wherein the housing shell parts (18) consist of a lightproof material and are intended with their closing edges (22) to enclose the drive unit (10) in a seal-tight manner and have an opening edge (24) which is intended to bear in a sealing manner against the hull of the watercraft, characterized in that the opening edge (24) has a lip seal (26) and the housing shell parts (18) have on their closing edges (22) a sealing element (28), and in that the hinge (20) is provided on edge portions, remote from the opening edges (24), of the closing edges (22) of the two housing shell parts (18).

2. (Currently amended) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the housing (16) with its housing shell parts (18) is matched approximately in shape to the form of the drive unit (10).

3. (Currently amended) The protective device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the housing shell parts (18) consist of glass-fiber reinforced plastic or acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene.

4. (Currently amended) The protective device as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the housing (16) is fastenable to the drive unit (10), to be protected, of the watercraft.

5. (Currently amended) The protective device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the housing (16) is fastenable to the stern plate (12) of the drive unit (10) to be protected, which stern plate is fastened to the stern of the watercraft.